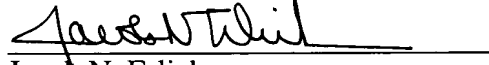


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-referenced patent application before substantive examination as follows:

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 2 of this paper and include four (4) replacement sheets.

Remarks begin on page 3 of this paper.